

Subject: Science

Grade: Kindergarten

Standard: #4 The Living Environment

Key Concept: Living things have similarities and differences.

Generalization: Animals have features that help them live in different environments.

Background:

Students have an understanding of body parts -- eyes, ears, nose, legs, head, etc.-- and have studied basic habitats such as water, trees, land, soil. You may use as many animals as you would like, depending on whether students work in groups, pairs, or individually. This example shows three groups, each group with a different animal and habitat. For each group, you need a picture or pictures of the animal large enough for students to see the structural details (or books, videos, or a real animal). One picture showing the animal in its habitat should be included. Students may dictate their answers to the teacher or into a tape recorder. Advanced students may be able to write their own answers with pencils or markers.

This lesson is tiered in *content* according to *interest*.

Directions for each group: Observe your animal. Look for structures that you think make it able to live in its habitat better than in any other habitat. How does it move? How does it get its food? Where does it live? How does it reproduce? Record your answers. Share what you learned with others who have the same animal.

Tier I: *Animal - Pond Frog*

Tier II: *Animal - Robin*

Tier III: *Animal - Rabbit*

Assessment:

Teacher may assess students through observation while they are working on their activities. When all groups are finished, the teacher should conduct a whole group activity to allow students to share what they learned about the various animals. The teacher should lead the class through a discussion of “alike and different” with respect to food-getting, habitat, needs, structures, reproduction, movement, etc. Use developmentally appropriate vocabulary. Students should gain an understanding of specific adaptations animals have to allow them to live in a specific habitat. You might also assess for understanding and misconceptions by asking questions such as, where are the eyes on the different animals? Why are they in different places? Could the rabbit live in the water? Why or why not? What about humans? Etc.